

Applicants : Betty A. Diamond and Bruce T. Volpe  
Appn. No. : 10/574,994  
Filing Date January 31, 2007  
Page 2 of 8

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 24, 49, 50, 52 and 53 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend Claims 23, 46, 48 and 51, re-number the second occurrence of Claim "53," and add new Claims 56-57 as set forth below.

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting progression of cognitive dysfunction in a mammal diagnosed as exhibiting or as being at risk for lupus-induced cognitive dysfunction, the method comprising treating the mammal with an agent that prevents binding of an anti-ds-DNA antibody to an NR2 subunit of an N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor of a neuron, wherein the agent comprises amino acid sequence X1-Trp-X1-Tyr-X2 (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein each of X1 independently represents Asp or Glu, and X2 represents Gly or Ser.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the neuron is in the hippocampus.

26-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the agent is administered to the brain of the mammal.

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Appn. No. : 10/574,994  
Filing Date January 31, 2007  
Page 3 of 8

46. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a patient is at risk for lupus-induced cognitive dysfunction, the method comprising determining whether the patient has anti-NR2 antibodies, wherein the presence of anti-NR2 antibodies indicates that the patient is at risk for lupus-induced cognitive dysfunction, and if the patient is at risk for lupus-induced cognitive dysfunction, treating the patient with an agent that prevents binding of an anti-NR2 antibody to an NR2 subunit of an N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor of a neuron, wherein the agent comprises amino acid sequence X1-Trp-X1-Tyr-X2 (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein each of X1 independently represents Asp or Glu, and X2 represents Gly or Ser.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the cerebrospinal fluid is tested for the presence of anti-NR2 antibodies.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the ~~peripheral~~ blood is tested for the presence of anti-NR2 antibodies.

49-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~46~~ 50, wherein the peptide or mimetic comprises Asp-Trp-Glu-Tyr-Ser (SEQ ID NO:1).

52-53. (Canceled)

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the agent comprises D-amino acids.

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Appn. No. : 10/574,994  
Filing Date January 31, 2007  
Page 4 of 8

5553. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the agent comprises Asp-Trp-Glu-Tyr-Ser (SEQ ID NO:1).

56. (New) The method of claim 23, where the mammal is diagnosed as exhibiting lupus-induced cognitive dysfunction.

57. (New) The method of claim 23, where the mammal is diagnosed as being at risk for lupus-induced cognitive dysfunction.